

RESPONSE

I. Statutory Double Patenting

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,284,132, upon which this application is based. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's comments on this matter and has thusly amended Claim 20 to include the limitations of Claim 21, which has been cancelled herein. Claims 22 and 23, which were objected to as relying on a rejected base claim, should now be allowable.

II. Additional Issues

Claim 13 has been corrected herein to amend a typographical error (changing have to having).

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 13 and 15-18 are allowed.

Conclusion

Applicants have responded to the issues contained in the subject Office Action and believe that the application is now in a condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to clarify any additional technical issues or informalities that would otherwise hold up issuance of a patent on this application.

Please note that the name of the Applicants' Counsel's law firm has changed to "DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY GARY US LLP," but all prior contact information remains the same.

It is not believed that any fees are due in connection with this amendment, but any required payments may be deducted, and any credits refunded, to Deposit Account No. 18-2284.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Ryan', is written over a horizontal line.

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